



WINCHESTER CITY COMMISSION WRAP-UP

Information from the Tuesday, Oct. 1, 4:30 p.m. special meeting and 5:30 p.m. regular meeting

Commission gets update on Seventh Street project

The Seventh Street project is a city/state project that allows for construction of a new road to begin at the intersection of Maple Street and Veterans Parkway and run west for about 0.7 miles parallel to Interstate 64.

The goal of the project is to alleviate heavy truck traffic through residential neighborhoods.

The city allocated \$300,000 for the project, and will also use approximately \$4.45 million from the State's Rural and Secondary Road Program discretionary funds. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet included money for design, right-of-way acquisition and easements in the road plan to fund the project.

At the Tuesday, Oct. 1, meeting of the Winchester City Commission, Brian Ward with Palmer Engineering gave an update on the project. Ward told the commissioners that planners opted for a redesign of the plan because of significant utility relocation costs associated with the original plan.

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MAYOR: JoEllen Reed
COMMISSIONERS: Kenny Book, Shannon Cox, Kitty Strode, Hannah Toole
CITY MANAGER: Bruce Manley

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Inaugural EMT-B class graduates



Graduates of the inaugural Emergency Medical Technician Base Initial Program (EMT-B) with Winchester Fire-EMS are (not in photographic order) Xavier Riley, Tallon Stallings, Patrick Boykin, Micah Whiteley, Lance Henry and Joe Wheeling. Each of the graduates are also George Rogers Clark High School graduates. Participants completed 160 hours of EMS training. The 15-week course also included training on Tactical Emergency Casualty Care and EMS vehicle operation, which are not taught by any other EMT-B class. The class was proctored by EMS Training Officer Major James Brown. The cost of the class is \$900, but can be reimbursed if the graduate becomes employed by Winchester Fire-EMS.

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The new plan also includes an adjustment to the exit of the new roadway to accommodate traffic related to two nearby properties: Freeman Corporation and a property owned by Jerry Joiner of Stuff Recycling that was previously occupied by Gates Precast.

Ward shared with the commissioners that the updated plan will reduce the overall project cost by approximately \$2 million. The original plans would have cost more than \$8 million. The revised alignment is estimated to cost about \$5.7 million.

Right-of-way and easement acquisition for the project is estimated to begin in the spring of 2025, with the initiation of construction slated for spring 2026. Completion is anticipated for the end of 2027.

Residents from the Seventh Street neighborhood attended the meeting and agreed they support the project. James Robinson spoke to the commissioners about his concerns with completely blocking off

Seventh Street during the construction phase of the project. His concern was that large vehicles would have difficulty turning around in the area. The commissioners agreed that finding a property to be converted into a turnaround would be safer.

Commissioner Shannon Cox noted that the new roadway could open the area for development, and requested that water and sewer lines be installed during the initial construction phase. Ward estimated the cost of adding water and sewer lines to be around \$750,000 to \$800,000. Mike Flynn, former city manager and staff advisor, said it would be critical to know how the land would be parceled out before installing water and sewer lines.

Mayor JoEllen Reed said the city has run into problems with acquiring the necessary property to complete the project, but assured residents the city would continue work on acquisition and the project as a whole.

Firefighters promoted during pinning ceremony



Pictured clockwise from top left are: Lieutenant Tommy Napier being pinned during promotion to Battalion Chief; Firefighter Dallas Gross being pinned during promotion to Lieutenant; Firefighter Matthew Moses being pinned during promotion to Lieutenant; and Firefighter Hunter McFarland being pinned during promotion to Lieutenant.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

The commission:

- approved an ordinance setting ad valorem taxes for 2025 of 12.3 cents per \$100 of assessed value on real estate and 13.63 cents per \$100 of assessed value on personal property. These rates are down from 12.6 cents and 15.3 cents, respectively, in 2024. The change reflects accepting the compensating rate plus 4 percent.
- approved a certificate recognizing Michael Anderson for 16 years of faithful service to the Winchester Municipal Utilities Commission.
- approved a request to close Depot Street for the 2024 Fall Pop-up Vendor Market from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26.
- declared a fire hose and SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) cylinder as surplus and donated the items to the Clark County Fire Department.

Mayor reads proclamations related to child abuse awareness, museum anniversary



ABOVE: Kathleen Samples, second from left, with Mountain Comprehensive Care, listens as Mayor JoEllen Reed, surrounded by the city commissioners, reads a proclamation making Oct. 4, 2024, TEN-4 Day in Winchester. TEN-4 Day is a day to raise awareness of child abuse and is recognized on Oct. 4 each year.



ABOVE: Mayor JoEllen Reed, surrounded by the city commissioners and volunteers from the Bluegrass Heritage Museum, reads a proclamation making October 2024 Bluegrass Heritage Museum Month in Winchester. The museum, located on Main Street in Winchester, is celebrating its 20th year.